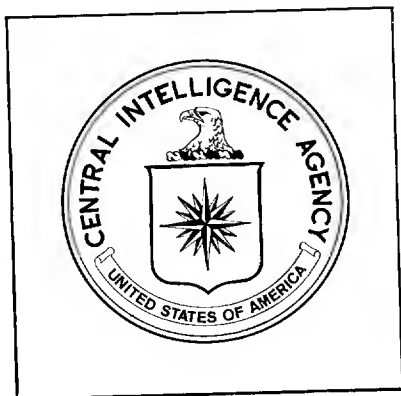


**Top Secret**

NOFORN

HR



# STAFF NOTES:

## Middle East Africa South Asia

*Handle via COMINT Channels*

**Top Secret**

146

SC No. 10373/75  
December 4, 1975

**Warning Notice**  
**Sensitive Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved**  
**(WNINTEL)**

**NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION**  
**Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions**

**DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS**

NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
NOCONTRACT-	Not Releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants
PROPIN-	Caution-Proprietary Information Involved
USIBONLY-	USIB Departments Only
ORCON-	Dissemination and Extraction of Information Controlled by Originator
REL ... -	This Information has been Authorized for Release to ...

Classified by 010725  
Exempt from General Declassification Schedule  
of E.O. 11652, exemption category:  
5/5B(1), (2), and (3)  
Automatically declassified on:  
*date impossible to determine*

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

## MIDDLE EAST - AFRICA - SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

### CONTENTS



25X1D

Dahomey: People's Republic of Benin	
Proclaimed . . . . .	5

Dec 4, 1975

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

25X1D

Approved For Release 2002/01/03 : CIA-RDP79T00865A002300110001-5

**Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt**

Approved For Release 2002/01/03 : CIA-RDP79T00865A002300110001-5

Dahomey

*People's Republic of Benin Proclaimed*

President Kerekou's three year old leftist military regime has renamed Dahomey the "People's Republic of Benin". A single "Marxist-Leninist" political party has also been established and the party's central committee has been charged with directing the government and the "revolution". The changes were announced last Sunday by President Kerekou on the first anniversary of his proclamation that the country would henceforth pursue a path of "scientific socialism" based on Marxist-Leninist principles.

The change of name represents yet another effort by Kerekou and his radical cohorts to break with the legacy left by the French, who gave the country the name of Dahomey. Benin was the name of an ancient African kingdom that stretched along the Gulf of Guinea whose capital was located in present day Nigeria. Popularizing the country's new name could be difficult because most citizens probably have little knowledge of the origins of the term or emotional feeling for that name.

Developments in Benin's "revolution" during the past few months suggest that the government's radical leadership has significantly increased its control over the country. Early this year, the regime narrowly fended off an attempted takeover by a moderate cabinet minister and last June the government forcibly suppressed a spontaneous popular insurrection in Cotonou that followed the murder of one of President Kerekou's political rivals which Kerekou himself ordered. The government has since organized a new system of public control through the establishment of political and paramilitary organizations throughout the country parallel to the traditional administrative machinery of the state.

(Continued)

Dec 4, 1975

5

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

An anti-Kerekou exile group called the Front for the Liberation and Rehabilitation of Dahomey, which surfaced in Brussels this fall, apparently continues to plot ineffectually. The Front's leaders and membership are largely unknown and it is doubtful that the group has much support within the Dahomean armed forces. The Kerekou regime believes that the Front is composed largely of supporters of former President Zinsou, who has lived in Paris since his ouster in a military coup in 1969, and is keeping suspected Zinsou sympathizers in Benin under close watch. (CONFIDENTIAL)



25X1A

Dec 4, 1975

6

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

**Top Secret**



**Top Secret**